

## **IRAQ RECONSTRUCTION FOOD FOR PEACE**

---

As part of the Coalition Provisional Authority's (CPA) assistance to Iraq, USAID has played a leading role in helping to avert a humanitarian crisis in Iraq, by providing assistance to the UN World Food Program (WFP) through the Food for Peace program. Though the immediate crisis has been averted, USAID continues to focus on the food needs of the country. The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) estimates that approximately 44% of the population depends on the monthly food ration as the sole source of income, and more than 80% of the population is food insecure without the ration.

Prior to the conflict, food commodities were mostly imported through the UN Oil-for-Food program and rationed out through the Public Distribution System (PDS), a delivery system managed by the Ministry of Trade (MOT). The MOT operation consists of storage warehouses, grain silos, trucking contractors, food distributors or agents, and a centralized database and ration card system designed to provide rations to all 26 million Iraqis. The monthly ration costs 250 Iraqi dinars (approximately 12 cents) per person, and is distributed by 44,000 food and flour agents throughout the country.

### **Accomplishments**

- The U.S. donated approximately \$452 million in food and cash to ensure the successful delivery of food aid in post-conflict Iraq.
- The PDS for food assistance was re-established in June for the first time since the supply and delivery of food commodities to Iraqi citizens was stopped during military operations.
- Using an extensive network of Iraqi food distributors and relying on food commodities and cash provided by the U.S. government, the UN WFP and the Iraqi MoT completed the post-conflict food ration distributions for June, July, August and September.
- With assistance from the U.S. government and coalition forces in Iraq, the PDS is now operational in all 18 governorates and continues to receive food through a WFP-established pipeline capable of providing more than 480,000 metric tons of food per month. Since the beginning of its emergency operation in April, WFP has delivered close to two million metric tons of food to Iraq through six corridors.

### **Next Steps**

- USAID is currently working with the CPA to prepare for the termination of the Oil-for-Food Program on November 21, per the UN Security Council Resolution 1483. After that time, the CPA, in partnership with the Iraqi Interim Administration, will assume responsibility for the management of thousand contracts and commodities, and the delivery of those commodities, including food for the PDS pipeline. USAID is planning to provide support to CPA for the logistics and communications operation during this transitional period. In addition, USAID/WFP is closely monitoring the PDS pipeline in the event that additional food donations are necessary, and will consider supporting WFP targeted follow-on activities such as nutrition activities for malnourished children and women, food security assessments, and technical advisory support for the PDS.
- In addition, USAID is working with CPA, the World Bank, WFP, and others to develop a concrete plan to reform the PDS, which costs close to \$2.5 billion per year in food and handling costs.